

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for detecting *Salmonella enteritidis* in a biological sample comprising sera or egg yolk obtained from poultry which comprises

contacting said biological sample with an antigenic fragment of *S. enteritidis* fimbrial protein consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, an antigenic fragment thereof, or a sequence wherein a conservative amino acid substitution is made for at least one amino acid in said sequence ~~or an antigenic fragment of *S. enteritidis* flagellin protein~~ under conditions sufficient for the formation of an immunological complex between *S. enteritidis* antibodies present in said sample and said fragment, and

detecting the formation of such a complex; wherein said fragment specifically recognizes *S. enteritidis* antibodies present in the sample and discriminates between *S. enteritidis* and other *Salmonella spp.*

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said sample comprises sera or egg yolk.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said fragment is provided as a fusion polypeptide wherein an additional polypeptide is fused to said fragment.

5. - 13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said fragment is labeled with a detectable label.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said label comprises a fluorescent compound, a radioactive element, an enzyme capable of producing a reaction detectable compound or gold.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said sample has been contacted with a detectable label which binds to anti-*S. enteritidis* antibodies present in said sample.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein said label comprises a fluorescent compound, a radioactive element, an

enzyme capable of producing a reaction detectable compound or gold.

18. (Currently amended) An isolated fragment of *S. enteritidis* fimbrial protein consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, an antigenic fragment thereof, or a sequence which corresponds to said sequence ~~which comprises~~ wherein a conservative amino acid substitution is made for at least one amino acid in said sequence.

19. - 34 (Canceled)

35. (New) A method for detecting *Salmonella enteritidis* in a biological sample obtained from poultry which comprises contacting a first portion of said biological sample with an antigenic fragment of *S. enteritidis* fimbrial protein consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, an antigenic fragment thereof or a sequence which corresponds to said sequence wherein a conservative amino acid substitution is made for at least one amino acid in said sequence, under conditions sufficient for the formation of an immunological complex between *S. enteritidis* antibodies present in said sample and said fragment, and

detecting the formation of such a complex; wherein said fragment specifically recognizes *S. enteritidis* antibodies present in the sample and discriminates between *S. enteritidis* and other *Salmonella* spp.; and

contacting a second portion of said biological sample with an antigenic fragment of *S. enteritidis* flagella protein under conditions sufficient for the formation of an immunological complex between *S. enteritidis* antibodies present in said sample and said fragment; and

detecting the formation of such a complex; wherein said fragment specifically recognizes *S. enteritidis* antibodies present in the sample and discriminates between *S. enteritidis* and other *Salmonella* spp.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein said sample comprises sera or egg yolk.